योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय में राजय मंत्री (श्रीमती रत्नमाला देहरेशवर सवनूर) : (क) योजना आयोग ने 1993-94 में देश में गरीबों की संख्या 32 रोड़ होने का अनुमान लगाया हैं।

(क) और (ग) प्रति व्यक्ति खपत वृद्धि से गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे के लोगों का प्रतिशत 1977-78 में 51.32 प्रतिशत से कम होकर 1993-94 में 35.प्रतिशत हो गया हैं और गरीबों की संख्या 1977-78 में 32.9 करोड़ से कम होकर 1993-94 में 32 करोड़ हो गयी है।

(ख) गरीबों की जीवन दशा और आय सुधारने के लिए नेक कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वित किए जा रहे हैं। इन कार्यक्रमों के अन्तर्गत आय बढ़ाने और रोजगार के अवसर उत्पन्न करने के लिए एकीकृत ग्रामीण विकास कार्यक्रम जवाहर रोजगार योजना, रोजगार आश्वासन स्कीम, प्रधान मंत्री की रोजगार योजना, नेहरू रोजगार योजना, गांगा कल्याण योजना, गरीबों के लिए शहरी गरीबी उन्मूलन कार्यक्रम जैसे कार्यक्रम शामिल हैं। इन कार्सक्रमों से लाभार्थियों की आय में सकारात्मक प्रभाव पड़ा हैं।

देश की विकास संबंधी संभाव्यता

279. **श्री राम जेठमलानी**: क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 23 मई, 1997 को "दि हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स" में छपी खबर "इंडिया हैज थर्ड बिगेस्ट, ग्रोथ पोर्टिशियल इम द वर्ल्ड" की ओर दिलाया गया हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सच हैं कि अमेरिका और चीन के बाद भारत में सबसे विकास कर पाने की क्षमता है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया हैं; और

(घ) सरकार ने उस संभावित विकास की क्षमता को विकसित कर उसे उपभोग में लाने हेतु क्या कदम उठाए हैं?

योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती रत्नमाला देहरेशवर सवनूर) : (क) और (ख) जी, हां, अखबार में छपी खबर विश्व आर्थिक फोरन, जोकि जिनेवा में व्यापार संगठित इनुसंधान संस्था हैं, के अनुसार भारत विश्व में सबसे अधिक सम्भावित विकास की क्षमता वाले देशों में अमेरिका तथा चीन के बाद तीसरे स्थान पर था।

(ग) और (घ) नौवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना (1997-2002) के दौरान प्रतिवर्ष 7 प्रतिशत के आर्थिक विकास की समग्र दर की परिकल्पना की गई हैं। निवेश दर को 28.6% तक बढ़ाकर तथा विकासन्मुख नीतियों का अनुसरण करके उक्त विकास प्राप्त किए जाने की योजना बनायी गई हैं।

Constitutional status to the Planning Commission

280. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: by when Giovernment arc going to bring a Bill in order to give Constitution al and statutory status to the Planning Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA DE-HARESHWAR SAVANOOR): There is no such proposal under consideration, at present.

Satellite Communication Policy

281. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item appearing in the Indian Express dated the 13th June, 1997, captioned "rent on Indian Satellite or buy one if you can";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the proposed satellite communication policy of the country in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIS TRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AF FAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBARAMONIYAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(O) and (c) Satellites are used extensively for telephony, data, T.V. and Sound broadcasting and Mobile services.

The Government has decided upon a policy framework for satellite communications in India. The salient features of this policy are; (a) transponder capacity of INSAT system would be orffered to non-governmental users also on commercial terms subject to capacity availability, (b) Indian private Parties will be permitted to establish commercial communication satellites and the Parties will be assisted in registering such satellite sys- terns and networks with the International telecommunications Union (ITU) as Indian Satellites and (c) operations from Indian soil will be allowed with both j Indian and foreign satellites in accordance with the norms and conditions to be evolved, but Indian satellites will be accorded preferential treatment. In so far as satellite based broadcasting is concerned, the various provisions of the Satellite Communications policy, framework would conform to the proposed Broadcasting Law.

Satellite communications systems have ' become a fundamental infrastructure of the communications network in the country and hence needs to be properly regulated for orderly growth. Further, j Indian Satellite Systems have to comply j with the various United Nations and In- ; tcrnational Telecommunications Union treaties and other international agreements to which India is a Party. The government will work out in the next few months, the norms and conditions concerning the various aspects of the policy for its effective implementation. It is expected that the enunciation of the policy framework will lead to the development of a healthy and thriving communications satellite and ground equipment industry as well as satellite communications service industry in India. This will also open the INSAT system for wider usage.

ISRO's targets for global market in Hardware

282. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISRO in targeting global market for hardware;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the country's future space programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The primary objective of Indian Space Programme is development of space technology for national developmental applications. However, the capabilities built in meeting this primary objective are also used for exploiting the global market. For this purpose, Antrix Corporation Limited, the commercial arm of the Department of Space, was set up in September 1992. Antrix has been establishing contacts with users of space hardware world wide and has already bagged a few contracts for supply of hardware for ground systems and space systems. These include data reception and processing hardware, satellite mechanical parts, internal system, propulsion elements etc. Besides, Antrix Corporation has entered into a commercial agreement with SI-EOSAT of the US under which data from' India's Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) Satellites is received and marketed worldwide.

Also, DOS has signed an agreement with the International Telecommunication Satellite Organisation, INTELSAT, for lease of an equivalent of eleven 36 MHz C-band transponder capacity on Indian National Satellite-2E (INSAT-2E) to be launched by India in 1998.

(c) India's future space programme envisages continuation and enhancement of space services in the areas of telecommunication, television broadcasting, meterology, disaster management and resources survey through advanced IRS and INSAT satellites. Commensurate launch capabilities will be built, with Polar Satel-